

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 30, 2003. Claims 1-41 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-41 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-41 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-41 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shimizu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,323).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 20) are patentable over Shimizu.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a content management method for a data storage and a content storage system. Each of the claims recites that data is stored in a first content storing means and in a second content storing means and that key data is encrypted and stored in the second content storing means. Further, each of the claims recites that "said first and second content storing means are located at a site that is remote from the site where said encrypting is performed."

Shimizu fails to disclose a storage scheme in which data is stored in first and second content storing means wherein key data is encrypted and stored in the second content means and wherein the first and second content storing means are located at a site that is remote from the site where the encrypting is performed. Indeed, Shimizu is directed toward encryption

and storage at a single site defined by a personal computer and an IC card detachably loaded in the personal computer (see e.g. Shimizu Fig. 1; and col. 6, line 62 – col. 7, line 3). Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 20 are patentable over Shimizu on at least this basis.

Claims 2-19 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Shimizu, claims 2-19 are believed to be patentable over Shimizu on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 21-41 depend on claim 20. Since claim 20 is believed to be patentable over Shimizu, claims 21-41 are believed to be patentable over Shimizu on the basis of their dependency on claim 20.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner

specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

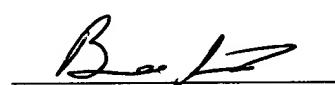
The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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